

Out of Focus

A yearly publication for Gallaudet University staff and faculty

April 1, 1994

Vol. 24, No. 22



Gallaudet has worked out a compromise so that Northwest Campus employees can keep their bucolic setting and have the conveniences of Kendall Green. And on days when the Florida Avenue water main breaks, they can even imagine that Rock Creek flows nearby.

Far-fetched schemes proposed to resolve parking woes

To park or not to park—that is the question. And that has been the issue at Gallaudet for the past two years as new construction and renovation of older buildings have reduced the number of available parking spaces on campus. Parking is at such a premium that spaces will soon be as coveted as Redskins season tickets—pre-1993 season tickets, that is.

Until the alumni burial ground/underground parking garage is constructed (see related story, page 3), the University must come up with an alternative solution. In order to resolve this dilemma and, at the same time, meet the University's goal of celebrating diversity, the Politically Correct Parking Committee (PCPC) has developed these alternatives.

Solution One: Departments and offices will be given points for each individual who is deaf, a member of a minority group, or who fits one of the other special categories (age, sex, waist size, zip code, favorite ice cream flavor, etc.) specified in Gallaudet's EIEIO statement. Individuals who fit more than one category may be counted two or three times or more. Departments with the highest score will have first dibs on parking location and the number of spaces. In the event of a tie, the department that signs most fluently gets first choice.

Solution Two: Parking will be allocated on a rotating basis. On weeks one and three of each month, faculty can park on Mondays and Wednesdays, staff can park in those spaces on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and students can park on Fridays and weekends. On weeks two and four, staff can park on Wednesdays and Fridays, faculty on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and students on Mondays.

Solution Three: Parking spaces

will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. The money could go to defray the costs of the new conference center or to increase the percentage of giving to the University by faculty, staff, and students, which will be an enormous help to the Develop-a-mint Office in raising private sector funds.

Solution Four: All parking spaces

will be made available to off-campus renters, and the Athletics Department will organize group walking, jogging, and bicycle excursions to transport members of the campus community between Kendall Green and Union Station. Not only will this resolve the parking problem, it will also improve the general health of the commuters.

Code seeks to banish naughty words from campus hands, mouths, and pens

Out of Focus has learned that a move is afoot to eliminate politically offensive terminology from the speech, signing, and writing of Gallaudet students, faculty, and staff.

In an interview with Gallaudet's new Director of Maxicultural Affronts, Tonya Bobbitt, we have learned that complaints about Politically Incorrect (PI) language have become so frequent that the University has no choice but to impose a Speech and Signing (SS) code.

As we began our interview, Dr. Bobbitt explained some of the ins and outs of Politically Correct (PC) language. "It's like this," said Bobbitt, "It's PC to be for the Rap Culture but PI to be for the Rape Culture, but not if the Rap Culture promotes the Rape Culture. Because this kind of thinking tends to lead us back to where we started from, we say PI are square. Get it?" We confessed to not having gotten it, so Bobbitt went on to explain more about the subtleties of PC and PI.

A surprising discovery is that many of the complaints are coming from a very unexpected quarter. According to Bobbitt, those lodging the largest number of complaints belong to an ethnic group heretofore known as

WASPS (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). "These people are upset because they see this acronym as derogatory, even after centuries of rape and pillage," said Bobbitt cuttingly. "It reminds people of a boring insect with a nasty sting. Besides," she added, "the W at the beginning is an egregious redundancy. I've never met one who wasn't, have you?" We admitted that we had not.

The acronym ASP was offered as an alternative, but it was pointed out that one of those killed Cleopatra. At this point, Bobbitt administered a PC pop quiz: "Was Cleopatra, a. Greek b. African c. both d. neither?" When your reporter quickly answered 'c', Bobbitt smiled and said, "You're catching on to PC, my friend."

"The last thing I want to do is bring anyone up short," said Bobbitt, "so we had to drop the ASP one also—too much like a snake." Bobbitt went on to report that her office even tried a set of acronyms, based on hearing status, unique to Gallaudet: HASP, DASP, and HHASP—the last one to be pronounced like HASP after clearing the throat.

"The DASPs and HHASPs were satisfied with these terms, but

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Myopic vision statement could cause migraines

In order to help promote clearer communication in the Gallaudet community—an environment that has always been highly visual—the University has developed a new Vision Statement.

The new statement replaces the old Vision Statement developed last year, which, although farsighted in some respects, is now seen to be a bit nearsighted as well.

In essence, the new Vision Statement calls for eye tests to become a requirement of working at Gallaudet. A Master Vision Identification Program (M-VID, for short) is being established to manage the testing and identification process. M-VID will be part of the new Center for Visual Acuity, which will provide services—including free glasses whether or not they are needed—to all members of the campus community, as well as training in how to use them.

(When the new center begins full operation next month, the term "glasses" will become politically incorrect; they will, instead, become known as Vision Implementation Devices.)

Although no one will be discriminated against for lack of vision, all efforts will be made to correct short-sightedness. Special attempts are being made to replace the rose-colored glasses now worn by many members of the campus community with clear lenses. In addition, 3-D glasses will be available for those seeking greater depth of vision.

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The rare species 'Multiculturus Erectus' is highly sought by enrollment recruiters at Gallaudet and other universities seeking diversity in their student population.

Insiders' guide to real estate tells the truth behind those cutesy terms

Finding appropriate, affordable housing in the Washington, D.C., area can be difficult. And as you may note in the *Out of Focus* classified ads each week, many housing opportunities are available in the "up-and-coming-apart" neighborhood around Kendall Green.

Hence, we offer this *Secret Real Estate Code Guide*, designed to help unwary house-hunters become a bit more savvy as they search for that perfect home.

- **Sophisticated city living:** Next to a rowdy bar.
- **Country feel in the city:** Previous owner kept a cow in the basement.
- **Old World charm:** Has some woodwork. Dirt floors.
- **Contemporary feel:** Has no woodwork. Needs cleaning.
- **Wide-open floor plan:** Previous owner removed supporting walls.
- **Updated bath:** Tub no longer overflows.
- **Eat-in kitchen:** Previous owner sealed door from kitchen to dining room.
- **Euro-kitchen:** Smells of garlic.
- **Move right in:** Has been unoccupied for five years, except for vagrants, vandals, and a herd of goats.
- **Motivated seller:** Has been on market 14 years. Owner has died.
- **Opportunity:** Quick, before it falls down.
- **Convenient:** Located on freeway entrance ramp.

- **Completely renovated:** All cats have been found and removed.
- **Neutral decor:** No murals of nudes or Elvis.
- **Move in easy:** Front door missing.
- **Really plush:** Five rooms of orange shag carpet.
- **Bachelor pad:** Red velvet walls. Smells like stale beer.
- **Lots of built-ins:** Previous owner nailed furniture to the floor.
- **Cozy:** No room larger than 9 by 6.
- **Starter home:** Foundation has been dug.
- **Outstanding:** Sticks out like a sore thumb.
- **Grandma's house:** No electrical improvements since 1926. Two-seater outhouse.
- **Close to shops:** Next door to auto salvage business.
- **Tudor:** Has back door and front door.
- **Traditional with contemporary feel:** Collapsing Victorian with a carport.
- **Curb appeal:** Only the front of the house is painted.
- **150-amp service:** Owner kept an arc welder in the living room.
- **Tenant wants to stay:** Evicting tenant is your problem.
- **No-maintenance exterior:** Chicken wire over tarpaper.
- **Newer windows:** Old windows were smashed in a police raid.
- **Security system:** Neighbor has a very loud dog.

University Faculty meets in special meeting to discuss meetings

The University Faculty met March 32 in a special meeting to determine the need for a meeting to change the *Guidelines for Faculty Meetings*.

At the meeting, the faculty decided there was enough dissent about meetings to warrant a regular meeting to discuss meetings in general and to approve Committee M's (Faculty Meetings) amendments to the *Guidelines for Faculty Meetings* and set up policies and house rules for conducting special, regular, formal, informal, closed, open, long, short, high tea, low tea, and hoity-toity meetings.

The faculty voted to adjourn this special meeting and convene a regular meeting, because only during regular meetings can the faculty discuss and vote on changes to the *Guidelines for Faculty Meetings*.

Discussion at this regular meeting included when to meet, how to meet, how long to meet, where to meet, reasons to meet, track meets, and coldcut meats. Of course, changes to the *Guidelines for Faculty Meetings* must meet the meeting agenda for the meeting of the

Trusty Bored in May and be approved at that meeting.

In addition, many faculty requested that Committee F (Faculty Dishevelment) plan a workshop to help faculty cope with meeting tedium, meeting fatigue, meeting deadlines, and post-meeting stress disorder. It was cited that at least one faculty member on record, and countless others off-the-record, have taken early retirement because of failing health due to post-meeting stress disorder.

As the meeting adjourned, several faculty members spoke of drawing up a petition to call a meeting to establish a Committee to Abolish Meetings. "There are just too many of them," said one faculty member who preferred to remain anonymous. "Of course, that committee would meet weekly," he added.

A special meeting to discuss establishing a Committee to Abolish Meetings and to plan a regular meeting to vote to establish such a committee is scheduled for April 1. A revolt against this meeting also has been announced.

It's important to embrace everyone, even if they are a bunch of weirdos

The world is becoming increasingly diverse, Gallaudet along with it. In order to encourage sensitivity to all types of people—yes, even including Yankees fans—this article presents a few minorities to be aware of.

- **Fans of your favorite team's rival:** Remember, the cornerstone of United States democracy is freedom of choice. If your team beats your office mate's team, don't rub it in more than 100 times.

- **People who don't like chocolate:** Although such heathens exist, it is not acceptable to force your superior tastes on them. Make them yellow cake for their birthday—as long as it has chocolate frosting for all the sane people in your office.

- **People who eat too much chocolate:** Instead of trying to make other people stop eating chocolate, show them a colored picture of a clogged artery.

- **People who think mainstreaming is a raft:** Gently inform them that the term refers to teaching deaf children how to swim in a river without a life jacket.

- **People who continually say "I forgot" after they promised to do something:** So they can get appropriate medical care for "forgetitis," suggest a short leave of absence—like, say, permanently.

- **People who never forget:** They make you want to ram their irritating heads in! But I forget what you're supposed to do with them instead.

- **Hearing office mates who ask you to stop your hearing aid from squealing:** Show your sympathy by making soft, comforting sounds—like scratching on a blackboard.

- **Office mates who play their radios too loud:** Control yourself. It is sufficient merely to smash the radio over the offending individual's head.

- **People who never check E-mail:** Send your colleague a dozen E-mail messages, then make a point of run-

ning into him or her on campus, and innocently inquire why you haven't received a response.

- **VAX addicts:** Be respectful of other people's choice to embrace the technological age wholeheartedly, even when they drive you crazy by sending you E-mail messages they must know you won't read.

- **Peepul hoo kan't spel:** Simplee lern two tollarete difarances en riting stile. Et iss knot thaaf difikult, ays oo kan seaf.

- **People who don't think the way you do:** Be subtle. Just wear a sign that says "Yes, I DO know it all."

Out of Focus

Published each year for the staff and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Department of Fabrications and Productions.

Grans Poo-Bah

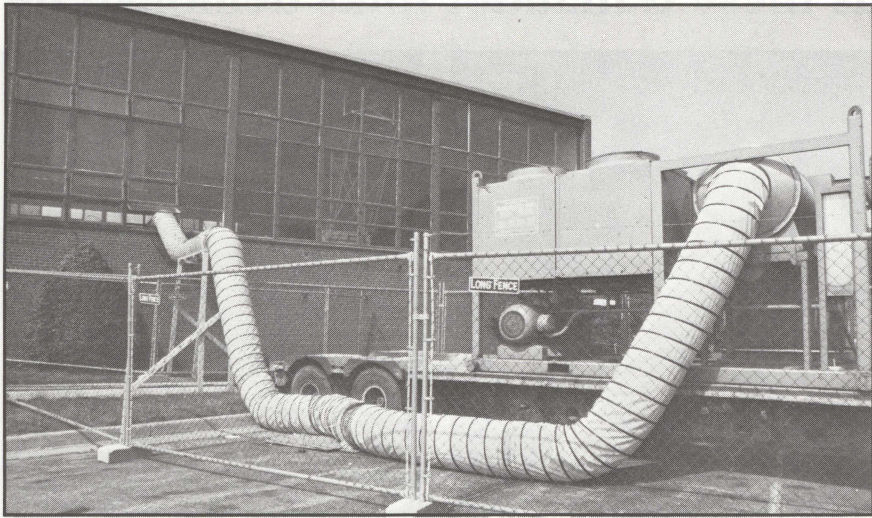
Odd Bird

Accomplices and Hired Guns

Lindy McManbo
Picky Wallop
Jellybean Filbert
Android Shuttle
Brave Hamstring
Chuckie-poo Robitussin
Robber Jaundice
Chug Loosely
June Slug
Obese Lamb
Orange 'Dr. J.' Julius
Tom Terrific



Gallaudet University is an equal unemployment opportunity institution that shall gleefully, and on an equal bias, fire, fail to hire, or otherwise ensure the unemployment and unemployability of all the following groups: Deafie, deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impaired, audilogically incapacitated, hearie, euphemism-impaired, white, black, purple, color blind, individuals of all national origins including Mr. Spock and Mr. Worf, individuals of all personal appearances including the inclination to wear spin-top hats, family responsibilities including pet rocks, spelling avilytis, or any other basis, lawful or unlawful, whether or not it has premiered on "L.A. Law" or "Reasonable Doubts."



Defying the forces of gravity, Huge Gym, which has been seen to sway like a kite in the breeze, needs this industrial-strength bracket to keep it grounded on Kendall Green.

Lingering energy levitates buildings

It's common knowledge that new buildings settle and may even sink over a period of years. But two buildings on the Gallaudet campus are actually rising!

This phenomenon is more than unusual, it is downright supernatural, which is causing some people to speculate that it may be the result of a lingering energy field from the mass meditation of followers of a Profit who gathered here last summer. Others fear that an ancient Native American burial ground recently discovered under the Hall Immemorial Building may actually cover the entire campus.

Both Kendall (are we) Demonstrating Elementary School and Huge Gym have risen 8 and 10 inches, respectively, since last June. While they seem to be as stable as ever, the buildings are hovering with a cushion of air between them and the ground.

Of course, the University's trusty Physical Transplantation Department has been on top of the rise, shoring

up parts of KDES as a safety precaution and constructing steps and ramps so students and employees can enter the building without jumping and exit it without taking a flying leap.

"It's the strangest thing I've ever seen," said a workman on site. "And even odder, the plumbing still works fine in spite of the fact that the pipes are no longer connected to the building!"

"I don't know what to make of it," said KDES Principal Nancy Allshookup, who noted that the school is changing its slogan from "Roots and Wings" to "A Wing and A Prayer."

The Physical Transplantation Department, however, is trying a different approach to Hughes Gym's tendency to levitate. Workers have constructed a huge bracket to anchor the building down to ensure that a strong gust of wind doesn't suddenly make it a new annex to the Holy Name School on West Virginia Avenue.

GUAA plans for campus burial vaults will keep alumni planted at Gallaudet

Since 1864, the number of Gallaudet alumni have steadily increased. However, as the officers of the Gallaudet University Alive Alumni (GUAA) recently noted, their numbers are not growing as rapidly as those of the Gallaudet University Deceased Alumni (GUDA).

Because it is a well-documented fact that Gallaudet graduates maintain strong ties to their alma mater, the GUAA has come up with an amazingly creative and potentially lucrative idea so that alumni can stay connected to the University even after they have gone on to Higher Ground.

The GUAA has begun negotiations with the construction group that built the Washington, D.C., Metro system to develop subterranean facilities beneath Olmsted Green and Hotchkiss Field that would be a combination multi-level parking garage and burial vault.

"The structure of a multi-level garage can provide additional parking as well as space for stacked burial vaults and niches for crematorial urns," said GUAA past president Bumpy Bursting. "We want to build on the tradition of campus burials," he said, pointing out the final resting place of the Prep Rat of 1972 and subsequent rats that have expired.

"It was common practice in past ages," Bursting continued, "for people to seek interment in the place that had the most meaning to them. How fitting it will be to have our honored alumni 'come home' to Gallaudet at the end of their days."

Bursting added that since the burial vaults and the parking lot will be located in the same area, it will be convenient for commuters to pay their respects to the deceased on the way to and from their cars each day.

Vision statement causes hallucinations

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"We need to have clear vision so we can see where we're going, as well as where we've been," explained President I'm Kink Jogging, who recently took advantage of the new services—already being offered on a trial basis—to have his prescription changed. "Many of us continue to run into the same walls and roadblocks that have been on campus for years, but which apparently we still can't see."

In keeping with the University's efforts to embrace diversity, multicultural glasses will be made available in red and yellow, black and white (all are precious for our sight) plus brown, which seems to have gotten left out the first time around. Rainbow, fem, bi, gay/lesbian, and hetero styles will be available. Of course, the glasses

will come in all shapes and sizes.

All new employees must be fitted with new glasses during their six-week probationary period and must demonstrate the ability to use them. Current employees (except faculty with tenure, who will remain exempt from having any vision) must pass a new vision test each year and receive new prescriptions, if needed.

SS makes us PC

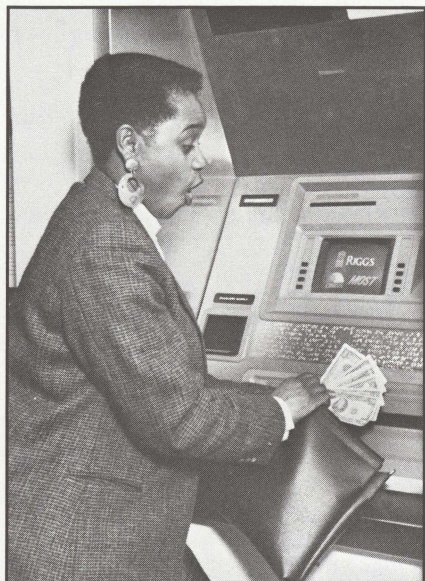
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the HASPS were still concerned that their acronym sounded like something closed up tight and narrow minded, maybe," said Bobbitt. "Fortunately we were finally able to settle on something that satisfied everyone: Pale Anglo Hearie—PAH!"

GULLIBLE GUS O'GALLY



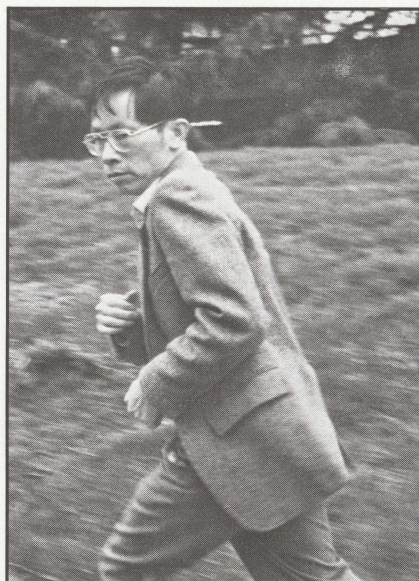
What's in a name? Sometimes plenty, as these Gallaudet folks demonstrate



Bernadette Banks



Karen Cooks



Fat (on the) Lam



Janet Prays

Freak circumstances cause Gallaudet to open its doors for an entire week

For the first time in nearly a year, Gallaudet was open for regular business and classes yesterday, March 32. A succession of climatic conditions and/or weak excuses had kept the University closed since September.

"It's time," said I'm Kink Jogging. "I, for one, have spent enough time basking in the sun in Hawa— uh, that is, holed up at home, shivering miserably with the cold, unable to go anywhere."

Among the various reasons the University closed this year was Ice Week, Sleet Week, Snow Week, Too Hot Week, Too Cold Week, Hell Week, Freezing Rain Week, Hail Week, Perfect Weather So Who Wants To Work Week, No Vision Statement Week, First Day of Semester Let's Put off Meeting the Students Week, Weather Assessment Week, and Last Week of Classes Before A Holiday Which Everyone Cuts Anyway Week.

And more excuses are on the horizon. This week is expected to be the only week Gallaudet will be open this academic semester. "It will be a challenge to pack 14 weeks worth of classes into one," said Jogging.

Due to time constraints, all teachers and students will meet in the Field House to hold all classes simultaneously, 24 hours a day. A team of paramedics will be on hand to provide

emergency treatments for such ailments as hand cramps, eye strain, and posterior fatigue.

A yoga instructor was flown in last night to train people in asynchronous eyeball rotation to enable students and teachers alike to watch more than one person at a time. The instructor will also demonstrate how to sign a different lecture with each hand and give a third and fourth lecture orally, from each side of his or her mouth. (Of course, teachers are not required to use their voices.) Each teacher also will be provided with two computers to use their toes to type a fifth and sixth lecture as needed.

"This approach to making up for lost time fits in with Gallaudet's Total Communication philosophy," Jogging noted.

This year's graduation is still planned for May 13. Due to the inconstant nature of the weather and human nature, however, contingency plans have been made to hold graduation on May 14 as needed. If inclement weather also occurs on May 14, the graduation will be postponed to May 15, and so on. If the 1994 graduation is postponed long enough to conflict with the date of the 1995 graduation, the 1994 graduation ceremonies will be held first, and the 1995 graduation will immediately follow.

A guide for D.C.'s newly disoriented

Before they actually arrive in the city, newcomers to Washington, D.C., frequently become totally baffled by:

- Beltway signs that direct them to Washington, then suddenly shoot them over toward Richmond, Va., or Baltimore, Md., depending on which way they are coming from.

- Cabdrivers who don't know any English or who are lost themselves.

- D.C.'s maze of logic-defying 'avenues' that run neither north/south or east/west but at odd angles, disappearing at traffic circles.

Therefore, to ease the transition to this mind-boggling city, *Out of Focus* presents these essential tips to newcomers:

- The Capitol Steps refer not only to the entrance to the U.S. Capitol but to a group of performers at the Shoreham Hotel.
- Rock Creek Park is a recrea-

tional area, not a Korean lobbyist.

- Foggybottom is an area in the northwest quadrant of the city where the U.S. State Department is located, not a comment on the state of U.S. foreign policy.

- The Washington Mall is not a shopping center, unless you're in the market for hot dogs, T-shirts, or Hillary Clinton masks.

- Despite its early morning and late afternoon appearance, the 14th Street Bridge is not a parking lot.

- Dr. Kendall Green was never a Gallaudet faculty member, although the University DID at one time have a Dr. Doctor, at the same time that Catholic University had a Dean Dean. (Gallaudet also has a Dean Martin, but he never made movies with Jerry Lewis.)

- "Lafayette, we are here!" is a quote from history, not the greeting of protesters across from the White House.

Announcements

The Office of the President announces that, beginning with the 1994-95 academic year, the University will not close for inclement weather of any sort. So that employees may better cope with any ice storms that may arise, the Carpentry Shop in the Central Utilities Building will mount metal studs on the soles of up to two pairs of old shoes per employee free-of-charge. Employees may drop off shoes at the Carpentry Shop and will be called when their shoes are fully studded.

Beginning Oct. 1, all employees and students will be required to attend Ice-Life Workshops to learn how to go about business-as-usual if Washington gets iced in again next winter. The workshops will be taught by world-renowned Tonya Hardly-a-Competitor. Topics to be covered in the beginner session will include walking, running, standing, sitting, falling, slipping, standing, crying, and cursing on ice. Sign Communication staff will round out the workshop with "ASL and PSE on Ice." The intermediate and advanced session will provide

instruction in the icy stare, the icy retort, the icy tear, and icing a buise. Classes will take place in several of the University's fountains, which will be flooded and frozen for this purpose.

Noticed any red-faced, embarrassed, angry people outside a campus elevator lately? The campus community is reminded that the "on" button to open electronic doors is limited to wheelchair users and other people with mobility difficulties. All such doors have been set with a boobytrap designed to stop use by physically able people. A sensor will determine whether the person pushing the "on" button is fully ambulatory; if so, it will spin them around and spit them out in the direction they came.

Modified garage door openers, capable of opening the gates to both the MSSD and KDES entrances— invaluable timesavers for workers in those buildings who arrive on campus after 9 a.m. and depart after 6 p.m.—are now available. For more information, E-mail IMFEDUP.



While Professor Fatso contemplates his Ground Unification Theory, Professor McSkinnay demonstrates his newly discovered method of measuring surface topography. (And you thought they were skipping work to play golf instead of making scientific discoveries!)